

To: graves, john[graves.john@epa.gov]
From: schaffer, joan
Sent: Mon 4/7/2014 5:55:39 PM
Subject: RE: Send out draft Headlines?

Yes, John – please do – and thank you.

joan

Joan T. Schafer, Acting Director

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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From: graves, john
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 1:46 PM
To: schaffer, joan
Cc: Lapp, Jeffrey
Subject: Send out draft Headlines?

Joan,

Below is a draft of the Headlines. Would you like me to send these out? I can follow Roy's addresses. Thanks,

John

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

Monday, April 7, 2014

***** DAILY HOT LIST *****

Toomey: Obama wants to regulate temporary ponds, maybe even puddles

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS WEST PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP — Sen. Pat Toomey believes a “navigable” body of water — the kind the government can regulate — should be at least large enough to float a small boat. But President Obama wants to include bodies of water such as temporary streams, ponds and possibly even puddles that occur after heavy rains, Toomey said. That would harm farmers, developers and the overall economy, the Republican senator told a group of farmers and others gathered at the township municipal building on Friday. “I will use all the tools at my disposal to push back on this,” Toomey told the audience of about 30. Toomey was referring to a proposed rule from the federal Environmental Protection Agency that would become part of the federal Clean Water Act. He told the audience the rule would give the EPA authority to regulate “virtually all outdoor water,” and would surely result in new permit requirements and regulations for land owners. Toomey is the leader of a group of 15 Republican senators who on Thursday wrote to the head of the EPA. According to the Associated Press, the letter said, “We believe that this proposal will negatively impact economic growth by adding an additional layer of red tape to countless activities that are already sufficiently regulated by state and local governments.” About 40 years ago, the federal Clean Water Act gave the EPA authority to regulate U.S. waterways. However, Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006 called into question the authority to regulate rain-dependent streams and wetlands.

Gas drilling impact fee revenue up 11 percent this year

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA Pennsylvania expects to collect \$224.5 million in impact fees levied on natural gas drilling companies this year— an 11 percent increase over the amount collected last year. The state’s 2012 oil and gas law, Act 13, charges drillers for each well. The fee can range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 per well, depending on the price of natural gas. This year, drillers paid \$50,000 for new horizontal wells— up from \$45,000 last year because the price of gas increased. Smaller, vertical wells paid \$10,000. The state Public Utility Commission (PUC) is charged with collecting and distributing the fee. Spokeswoman Jennifer Kocher says there were approximately 1,200 new wells drilled in 2013. “The vast majority of the wells were horizontal wells,” she says. Range Resources paid the most this year (\$27,992,000) followed by Chesapeake Energy (\$26,727,950) and Shell (\$17,004,450). The fee declines over time and drillers continue to pay for 15 years. Governor Corbett issued a statement noting the success of the law, which has brought in \$630 million to the state so far. “We are building a stronger Pennsylvania by harnessing our abundant resources to create jobs for working families, reinvest in our local communities, and protect our environment for generations to come,” Corbett said.

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Pennsylvania to collect \$224M in gas drilling fees HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania's new “impact fee” on the booming natural gas drilling industry is expected to generate \$224.5 million from wells in 2013, up 10 percent over last year, Gov. Tom Corbett's administration said Friday. The projection is based on Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission data, and the money will be paid out July 1 to local governments and state agencies and programs. The calculation comes as the prospect of slapping a bigger tax on the industry more in line with other gas-producing states is a common theme among the Democrats running for the party's nomination to challenge the Republican governor in the fall. The idea has some currency among Republicans, too. On Tuesday, a GOP candidate for an open Senate seat in southeastern Pennsylvania, Tom McGarrigle, proposed a 4 percent severance tax on the industry, echoing the position of the Republican incumbent, Sen. Ted Erickson, who is not running for re-election. “It's a position that has very strong support in that district, as well as a lot of areas in the southeast,” Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, R-Delaware, said in an interview Thursday. Many members of the Senate Republican caucus support a severance tax, but many others do not, and conversations in the caucus never became serious given Corbett's past opposition, Pileggi said. There has been no recent discussion in the caucus of advancing a severance tax, and none is planned, Pileggi said. On Thursday, Corbett reiterated his opposition, suggesting that a tax would hurt the industry. “What I hear is, ‘we need to spend more so we need to tax more,’” Corbett said. “We need to grow the industries, all the industries of Pennsylvania.”

The good and bad: DEP must tell the full story on drilling's impact In the same week that the Department of Environmental Protection was happy to report that air pollutants due to gas drilling dipped in 2012 despite more activity, testimony by a DEP official surfaced indicating that the agency typically does not record or publicly report certain violations on water fouled by gas well discharges. These items may seem unrelated, but they have a critical nexus: the people's right to know. And the people of Pennsylvania have a right to know from DEP both the good and the bad about Marcellus Shale drilling. It was good news that, even with more gas exploration and processing, the emission of nitrogen oxides in the state slipped from 16,500 tons in 2011 to 16,400 tons the next year. But that positive announcement was tempered by a Post-Gazette report on a court brief containing sworn testimony from a DEP manager who said it was the “practice” of regulators not to issue a violation notice, fines or formal determinations when gas firms reach private settlements with well owners over water contamination. After the DEP official's testimony was given in January, the agency issued a series of written corrections and clarifications to it in March, saying that such information on water quality complaints is indeed available to the public. But that's not what he said under oath. So which is it?

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

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million in impact fees levied on natural gas drilling companies this year— an 11 percent increase over the amount collected last year. The state’s 2012 oil and gas law, Act 13, charges drillers for each well. The fee can range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 per well, depending on the price of natural gas. This year, drillers paid \$50,000 for new horizontal wells— up from \$45,000 last year because the price of gas increased. Smaller, vertical wells paid \$10,000. The state Public Utility Commission (PUC) is charged with collecting and distributing the fee. Spokeswoman Jennifer Kocher says there were approximately 1,200 new wells drilled in 2013. “The vast majority of the wells were horizontal wells,” she says. Range Resources paid the most this year (\$27,992,000) followed by Chesapeake Energy (\$26,727,950) and Shell (\$17,004,450). The fee declines over time and drillers continue to pay for 15 years. Governor Corbett issued a statement noting the success of the law, which has brought in \$630 million to the state so far. “We are building a stronger Pennsylvania by harnessing our abundant resources to create jobs for working families, reinvest in our local communities, and protect our environment for generations to come,” Corbett said.

WESA-FM PITTSBURGH'S NPR STATION

Results Mixed In 2012 Natural Gas Drilling Emissions Data The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has released annual emissions data for Marcellus Shale natural gas production for 2012. Emissions are tracked each year in an effort to assess air quality in the state. “The data shows two decreases and four increases in pollutant categories from natural gas emissions,” said DEP spokeswoman Morgan Wagner. “However, overall, total air contaminate emissions across the state have continued to decline.”... “The increases can probably, largely be contributed to the additional 250 compressor stations that were added to this round of reporting,” Wagner said. “They were not required to report in 2011.” The data came from 56 Marcellus Shale operators covering 8,800 natural gas wells and 70 operators of 400 compressor stations which received gas from Marcellus Shale and traditional oil and gas well sites. The sources used to collect data include compressor stations, dehydration units, drill rigs, heaters, venting and blow down systems and well completions. According to the DEP, the reductions represent between \$14 billion and \$37 billion of annual public health benefit, based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Methodologies.e.

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Waste Management to power fleet with natural gas Waste Management will soon begin replacing its diesel-fueled garbage collection vehicles with more environmentally friendly trucks powered by compressed natural gas, possibly converting the entire fleet by next year. Officials of the trash hauler were granted three ordinance variances by the Plainfield Township Zoning Hearing Board that will allow Waste Management to establish a CNG fueling station — for both its fleet and the general public — near its corporate offices and Grand Central Landfill. By going green, the company hopes to reduce fleet emissions and increase fuel efficiency. The company has set up more than 50 natural gas fueling stations across the country, 22 of which are open to the public or outside fleet operators. The board approved variances to allow Waste Management to establish a retail fuel center without a convenience store or auto service facility as a second principal use to providing fuel for its fleet. The trash hauler and landfill operator was also

granted a variance to allow for outdoor, above-ground storage. Federal and state law requires fuel storage to be above ground for inspection and maintenance, but the township's ordinance mandates below ground storage, Waste Management's attorney Matt Goodrich said. Waste Management received an \$806,248 grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development, plus \$490,000 from the state Department of Environmental Protection. The township Planning Commission considered the application March 17 and recommended approval of the variances. Once the fuel is pumped on-site via an existing UGI line, Waste Management will use a compression buffer vessel to store the gas above ground before it makes its way to the fuel stations.

CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Toxic emission spikes at fracking sites are rarely monitored, study finds People in natural gas drilling areas who complain about nauseating odors, nosebleeds and other symptoms they fear could be caused by shale development are usually told by state regulators that monitoring data show the air quality is fine. But a new study suggests that the most commonly used air monitoring techniques often underestimate public health threats because they don't catch toxic emissions that spike at various points during gas production. The study, reported this week in the peer-reviewed journal *Reviews on Environmental Health*, was conducted by the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, a nonprofit based near Pittsburgh. A health survey the group released last year found that people who live near drilling sites in Washington County, Pa., in the Marcellus Shale, reported symptoms such as nausea, abdominal pain, breathing difficulties and nosebleeds, all of which could be caused by pollutants known to be emitted from gas sites. Similar problems have been reported by people who live in the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas. While residents want to know whether gas drilling is affecting the air near their homes - where emissions can vary dramatically over the course of a day - regulators generally use methods designed to assess long-term regional air quality. They're "misapplying the technology," said lead author David Brown, who conducted the study with three of his colleagues at the Environmental Health Project. Stuart Batterman, an environmental health sciences professor at the University of Michigan, said the study underscores the need for specialized monitoring programs that target community health. But creating these programs is difficult, Batterman said, because scientists don't fully understand the emissions coming from natural gas facilities. Air pollutants ebb and flow based on equipment malfunctions, maintenance activities and the weather. They're released from storage tanks, compressor stations and pipelines during every step of the process: drilling, hydraulic fracturing, production and processing.

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Haverford celebrates Earth Day early, April 12 HAVERFORD — The township environmental advisory committee and department of parks and recreation will host the annual Earth Day celebration from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 12 at the Community Recreation and Environmental Center at Haverford Reserve. Highlights include music, children's activities, nature hikes, scavenger hunts, educational booths, tree plantings, rain garden demonstrations and more. Paper shredding and electronics waste drop-off will be available. These services are free excepting a \$5 charge for old style picture tube TVs and monitors. Check the Parks Department Web site, www.haverfordtownship.com/parks , for more information and schedules.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Toomey: Obama wants to regulate temporary ponds, maybe even puddles WEST PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP — Sen. Pat Toomey believes a “navigable” body of water — the kind the government can regulate — should be at least large enough to float a small boat. But President Obama wants to include bodies of water such as temporary streams, ponds and possibly even puddles that occur after heavy rains, Toomey said. That would harm farmers, developers and the overall economy, the Republican senator told a group of farmers and others gathered at the township municipal building on Friday. “I will use all the tools at my disposal to push back on this,” Toomey told the audience of about 30. Toomey was referring to a proposed rule from the federal Environmental Protection Agency that would become part of the federal Clean Water Act. He told the audience the rule would give the EPA authority to regulate “virtually all outdoor water,” and would surely result in new permit requirements and regulations for land owners. Toomey is the leader of a group of 15 Republican senators who on Thursday wrote to the head of the EPA. According to the Associated Press, the letter said, “We believe that this proposal will negatively impact economic growth by adding an additional layer of red tape to countless activities that are already sufficiently regulated by state and local governments.” About 40 years ago, the federal Clean Water Act gave the EPA authority to regulate U.S. waterways. However, Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006 called into question the authority to regulate rain-dependent streams and wetlands.

DEP fines Steelton Water Authority \$55,200 for violations (April 3) The Steelton Water Authority must pay the Department of Environmental Protection a \$55,200 fine as part of a consent order and agreement concerning drinking water treatment and reporting violations. “DEP considers that fine to be reflective of the seriousness of the violations,” said Lisa Kasianowitz, spokeswoman for DEP. After an inspection of the water authority's treatment system this past November, DEP discovered “signification violations” of the Safe Drinking Water Act and its regulations, as well as violations of construction permits, according to the agreement. The authority will pay the penalty in four quarterly payments through April 15, 2015, according to a statement from DEP. It's already has paid \$13,800 to DEP.

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

Quakers and the Environment Fracking the Marcellus Shale from a Quaker perspective Panel members at a talk Sunday on Quakers and Marcellus Shale gas drilling are, from left, Dr. Tim Kelsey, Beth Higginson, Margaret Wood and Bryn Hammarstrom. Fracking the Marcellus Shale from a Quaker perspective By AD CRABLE | Staff Writer TownNews.com What do Pennsylvania Quakers think of Marcellus Shale fracking in their midst? Three northern Pennsylvania Quakers living amid fracking in northern Pennsylvania, and a Penn State professor who's studied the economic impact of natural gas development on communities, gathered in Lancaster Sunday afternoon for a panel discussion: “Living on Shale: A Quaker Perspective.” At the Lancaster Friends Meeting, they addressed about 100 people, many of whom came with a newly heightened nervousness about Marcellus Shale after learning of a 35-mile natural gas pipeline proposed to run nearly the length of the county. Margaret Wood, who moved from New York City to Bradford County to raise a family, described “an assault by the gas industry” on beloved land that had been in her husband's family since 1840. “First they frack the community, then then they frack the land,” she said, at one point tearfully. “If you're familiar with the tragedy

of the commons, that is what happened to us. We could not hold together as a community. “They set neighbor against neighbor. Families break up, family farms break up, fights happen. The greed and outrage machines begin on both sides. Bullying arrives.” By 2008, all the Woods’ neighbors had leased their land for gas drilling. Her family became what is called a “donut” property, and they were the hole. Finally, she said, the family relented and leased their land with a no-surface-disturbance contract because if there was a spill, “we would have no place at the table to protect our land.”

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WEEKENDER

As fracking soars, gas terminal poised for about-face from imports to exports COVE POINT, Md. — The natural gas pipes on Dominion's Cove Point property begin on a pier in the Chesapeake Bay. They then descend underground and run for more than a mile behind the walls of a dimly lit tunnel for foot-brake bicycles that workers use to travel from the dock to shore. Above ground, the pipes pass acres of trees and finally connect to seven massive storage tanks before the gas ultimately travels to American consumers. This winter, they have been empty of the imported gas that filled them for years. But now, Dominion and Maryland are bracing for the Chesapeake Bay dock, which was once a starting point for imported gas' journey on American soil, to be the takeoff spot for exports. When that happens, Cove Point will become the first operational gas exporting facility on the East Coast. Dominion plans to begin construction by the end of the year. The plan to export gas has raised questions across the state about whether the plant will be a boon for the economy or cause significant damage to the environment. Some Marylanders see the export plant, like Dominion does, as a job-creating opportunity for the state that is more environmentally-friendly than coal production. “It gives us a chance to export something,” said state Delegate James Proctor, a Democrat. But others see the conversion as an environmental hazard that exposes all of Maryland to the potential risks of gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and fear it could lead to use of the controversial gas-extraction method within the state. For Dominion executives, the switch is logical due to increased global demand for American gas and, with \$3.8 billion worth of changes, will be an efficient way to use the existing facility. “It's the same thing,” said Mike Frederick, vice president of Dominion's LNG operations. “It's just in reverse.”

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

Swamp Creek trail plan gets Limerick support LIMERICK — The board of supervisors unanimously agreed Tuesday night to support Montgomery County’s effort to acquire a state grant for implementing a new trail plan along Swamp Creek affecting multiple municipalities. Part of the desired trail plan will create additional parking for fishermen who utilize the creek, according to Greta Martin Washington, Limerick’s director of community planning. “They will tell you that many times they pull off a very narrow road, anywhere they can find just a sliver of parking so they can go down to the creek to fish,” Martin Washington said. “So this is a trail plan or public access plan that would allow for micro parking lots somewhere with access to the stream.”

READING EAGLE

Conservationists claim victory on new farm bill MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Wildlife and environmental groups are claiming victory for conservation practices in the new farm bill, where

two of their top priorities made it into law. Farmers will be required to use good conservation practices on highly erodible lands and protect wetlands to qualify for crop insurance subsidies. And the law requires "sodsaver" protections to discourage farmers from plowing up native grasslands in several Plains and Midwest states. From his vantage point on a wide expanse of South Dakota prairie, rancher Jim Faulstich hopes the legislation spurs more farmers to protect the natural resources on their land. Faulstich and his son-in-law manage about 8,000 acres near Highmore in central South Dakota, most of it restored and native grasslands on which they graze cows. They also grow a diverse rotation of crops. That habitat has proven so attractive to pheasants, trophy bucks and other wildlife populations that they launched a side business hosting hunters from across the country. "It's a very good investment of U.S. taxpayer dollars to encourage people to do good things on the land," Faulstich said. Other conservationists active in the long farm bill debate agree. "I think we're going to get a quite a lot of bang for the buck on conservation compliance and sodsaver," said Bill Wenzel, agriculture program director for the Izaak Walton League of America. It wasn't a total victory. The \$57.6 billion in the farm bill for conservation programs over the next 10 years is a net reduction of \$4 billion. Sodsaver will apply only to six states — North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana and Nebraska — instead of nationwide.

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

Years later, pollution still exists at former Precision National Plating site GLENBURN TWP. - Cleanup efforts have slashed the contamination levels in nearby ground and surface water, but traces of toxic chromium still exist in Ackerly Creek and the bedrock beneath the former Precision National Plating site. In November, crews hired by Precision injected 103,047 gallons of 1 percent calcium polysulfide solution and 12,689 gallons of 2 percent solution into 62 points around the former chrome-plating site, where a decades-old problem of pollution persists. The injections, part of a remedial plan to reduce levels of contamination in soil, groundwater and surface water, work to turn hexavalent chromium into its less toxic and less mobile trivalent form. Contractors this month will collect samples from wells, while crews hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will take split samples - a sample divided into two subsamples at the lab - of Ackerly Creek. The tests determine the effectiveness of the injections and status of cleanup. The EPA began overseeing Precision's cleanup efforts in 1991, eight years before site operations ceased. Hexavalent chromium was used at the site starting in the 1950s and leaked into the soil and groundwater. "Levels have dropped hugely over the years, from hundreds of thousands of parts per billion to sometimes nondetect," EPA's on-scene coordinator, Ann DiDonato, said. Most areas in Ackerly Creek register levels lower than the target goal of 11 parts per billion, she said. One area, she said, is higher than 10 and below 20. Once the levels stabilize and fall consistently below the target, crews will stop injecting but continue monitoring the levels.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Hunting Point renters demand answers to asbestos contamination at their buildings Residents of

one of Alexandria's largest affordable apartment complexes grilled federal regulators, local authorities and their landlord Saturday over the discovery of asbestos during renovations of their homes, angrily asking why it took three months for officials to halt the work. Owners of the 530-unit Hunting Point on the Potomac, formerly Hunting Towers, received a rare stop-work order from the Environmental Protection Agency last week after inspectors discovered asbestos in the floors, doors and windows. The agency also found that workers were not taking legally required precautions. During four visits to the 63-year-old complex since the beginning of the year, EPA officials found crumbling asbestos in apartments, halls and trash areas where windows and floor tiles are being replaced. No notice of the danger was posted, the EPA said, and workers did not seal the area to protect residents. No certified supervisor was on the job, nor were workers certified in the task of removing hazardous materials. The EPA has ordered testing for airborne asbestos fibers. The stop-work order is an unusual action by the EPA; only five a year are typically issued, and they rarely involve occupied apartment buildings, an EPA spokeswoman said. The crowd of more than 100 that gathered at Alexandria's Lee Center to hear the EPA's explanations was angry and mistrustful of the buildings' owners and contractors. Some responses offered by officials drew scoffs and catcalls. "All the units should be sampled," said resident Crystal Kilby, who is a nurse. "I live there. I don't want my health compromised." "The thing I find most disconcerting is it was necessary for a resident to bring this to your attention," Doug Meckes said. "I'd like to know where the town of Alexandria was." "This isn't even negligence — this is recklessness," said Stephanie Ackerman, who said she has been threatened with eviction for refusing to let contractors in her apartment to replace windows. Several parents testified that they worried about children who have crawled on or touched contaminated surfaces.

The new IPCC report shows that work to limit climate change must begin now HUMANS ARE having a hard enough time coping with the natural variability in our environment, which causes disasters such as heat waves, wildfires and floods. Just wait until climate change makes all three of those problems — and many more — worse. That was the stern warning from the world's scientific community last week, in the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The U.N.-chartered body produced its first comprehensive report since 2007 on the changes that might accompany a rising global temperature and on humanity's potential to cope with them. It isn't encouraging. A more rational Washington wouldn't have needed this document to formulate a better plan for handling the many risks; that would have happened long ago. It's a measure of the country's dysfunctional debate on global warming — primarily the fault of Republican cynicism or senselessness — that many lawmakers want no such plan and will ignore this document, as they have many before it. There are some things the scientists are very confident will happen in a warming world over the next century. Sea levels will rise, threatening coastal cities and low-lying nations. Island states could get hit very hard. There are probably going to be relatively more extremely hot days than extremely cold ones, and water- and food-borne illnesses will probably increase. Various sections of North America will probably be drier and more prone to wildfires, while cities will likely see more urban floods. But part of the peril of climate change is that scientists don't have a crystal ball to foretell how, exactly, the environment will respond to rising temperatures, and they are trying to predict effects over the course of decades. The experts anticipate that forests could die off and that wetland and rain forest ecosystems could crumble. They anticipate effects on water systems just about everywhere: more flooding in many places, less water in dry areas, more humidity inhibiting

human labor in wetter climes.

WASHINGTON TIMES

House Republicans to push gas exports House Republicans will move forward this week with legislation to expedite exports of American natural gas, which supporters argue will help Europe and Ukraine break their dependence on Russian fuel and cut Moscow's influence in the region. The move comes as the Obama administration sharpens its rhetoric on the issue after initially dismissing liquefied natural gas exports as a meaningful, immediate response to Russian military aggression in Ukraine. While administration officials still argue — and most analysts agree — that U.S. natural gas shipments wouldn't reshape global energy markets in the short term, they're expressing more support for a long-term strategy to give Ukraine, Germany and other nations the choice of buying American fuel rather than gas from Russia. Russia supplies more than half of Ukraine's natural gas and about 30 percent of Europe's supply as a whole, complicating efforts to impose economic sanctions or other punishments for Moscow's actions in Ukraine. "If those countries have a choice in their supplies, they can use that market power to reinforce their independence and break the ability of individual suppliers to use energy as a tool that affects the political choices they want to make for the future," said Carlos Pascual, the State Department's special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs, during a speech at the Atlantic Council last week. As the crisis in Ukraine intensified last month, the White House played down the importance of U.S. natural gas — now in abundance thanks to the exploding use of fracking and the discovery of huge natural gas deposits such as the Marcellus Shale — as a weapon against Moscow. Since then, however, there have been signs the idea is gaining traction. Late last month, the Energy Department approved a liquefied natural gas export project in Oregon, the seventh such project to be green-lighted by the Obama administration. Nearly two dozen such projects remain under review.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Watermen poaching from oyster sanctuaries DEAL ISLAND, Md. — "A sophisticated radar and camera system installed along the Chesapeake Bay is acting as another set of eyes for Maryland Natural Resources Police who have successfully tracked watermen poaching oysters from state sanctuaries" and already won their first court case against two of them" since the system went online Oct. 1. "It allows us to see things we're not normally privy to," said Lt. Scott Richardson, the agency's regional commander. "It's been a very useful tool for us." But the new Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network also has "caused quite a stir" among watermen and the public as the number of oyster violations mounted during the season, Richardson said. "I'm sure respect for MLEIN is growing almost daily," he said. In Deal Island, waterman Danny Webster said the radar and cameras mounted on a tower on state property at the harbor have been the talk of the community since they were installed last summer. At first, many thought the equipment was just a deterrent to keep watermen in line, but they have since found out it's a working system. "A lot of them are saying it's like Big Brother," he said. "They want to know why (the state) can't use it for drug dealers instead of spying on watermen." State officials said the equipment, which is able to cover up to 20 miles, in a network which reaches from the

mouth of the Susquehanna River to the Virginia state line, is used for a lot more than just keeping watch over oyster sanctuaries. The system was used by first responders in Anne Arundel County who asked to have cameras on the bay bridge turned to see a sailboat in distress, said Candy Thomson, a Natural Resources Police spokeswoman.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Blog: Agencies start different chemical leak health studies Federal, state and local health officials are moving forward with studies examining possible effects from the January massive chemical leak. The Department of Health and Human Resources, working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and WVU, as well as the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department announced this week they're starting different surveys stemming from the Freedom Industries leak that contaminated tap water for 300,000 West Virginia residents. The state is conducting what's called a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response, or CASPER, study. Representatives are going door-to-door asking randomly selected households about "public health concerns" during the spill, according to a press release. (Keep in mind, the CDC, DHHR and its Bureau for Public Health still aren't ready to even say whether the more than 500 people complaining of rashes, eye problems and breath issues didn't necessarily suffer from the flu or anxiety.)

WEST VIRGINIA RECORD

Another class action filed in water saga (Friday) CHARLESTON — Another potential class action has been filed in the wake of January's chemical spill that contaminated the drinking water of more than 300,000 West Virginians. Summer and Robert Johnson of Charleston are listed as the plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit filed March 25 in Charleston. Freedom Industries, West Virginia American Water, American Water Works and Eastman Chemical are named as defendants. WVAWC's intake facility along the Elk River is just more than a mile downstream from the Freedom Industries site where an estimated 10,000 gallons of crude MCHM leaked Jan. 9. More than 300,000 residents in parts of nine counties were without tap water for days, and many still are wary of using the water. Now, more than 50 complaints have been filed in various state and federal courts related to the chemical spill. Freedom Industries filed for bankruptcy Jan. 17. In the Johnson complaint, filed by Charleston attorneys Stuart Calwell, D. Christopher Hedges and Alex McLaughlin of The Calwell Practice LC, the plaintiffs accuse Freedom Industries of negligence for failing to maintain proper storage facilities for the crude MCHM and for failing to make itself or information readily available after the leak. They also accuse WVAWC of negligence for failing to understand the potential threats to the water supply, for failing to maintain adequate water reserves, for failing to maintain proper filtration reserves, for failing to take appropriate actions after learning of the chemical leak and for failing to properly flush its water treatment facility and water supply system.

MARYLAND

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

County government and municipalities could be close to agreement on stormwater project funding (April 3) Carroll County and municipal officials could be close to an agreement on how to fund expected stormwater management projects, according to New Windsor Town Manager Frank Schaeffer. Schaeffer, who also sits on the county's Water Resources Coordination Council, said at New Windsor's Wednesday council meeting that county commissioners have indicated they are in general agreement with the idea of a joint stormwater permit and shared funding approach for the county and municipalities. Schaeffer did not elaborate on how much of the costs the county would pay versus how much municipalities would pay. The WRCC, which is made up of various municipal and county officials, would work with county staff to coordinate and set priorities for joint projects, Schaeffer said. He said the county is hoping to get a memorandum of understanding drawn up outlining the details of such a plan. He said a meeting will be set up with mayors and county officials in the near future to sign the MOU. At the meeting, New Windsor Town Council members authorized Mayor Neal Roop to sign a potential MOU if it is available before the next town meeting.

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

Many Marylanders may not be aware of pending increase

FEDERALSBURG — Changes in the federal flood insurance program are likely to mean higher premiums for thousands Maryland residents, and not just those living in Ocean City or along the Chesapeake Bay. Residents of smaller inland towns like Federalsburg, where the percentage of policies facing premium increases is among the highest in Maryland, also are facing significantly higher rates. For many years, the federal government offered subsidized flood insurance on homes and businesses across the country. But the combination of discounted premiums and a series of catastrophic storms in recent years has left the National Flood Insurance Program deeply in debt, prompting Congress to pass a law two years ago requiring policyholders to start paying rates based on the true risk of flooding at their properties. Although President Barack Obama signed a law recently easing some of the dramatic rate hike provisions of the 2012 legislation, many policyholders who have been paying subsidized premiums are still going to be hit with steady rate increases over the next several years. Records obtained by The Associated Press from the Federal Emergency Management Agency show that of the more than 73,000 flood insurance policies in effect in Maryland as of December 2012, some 12,000, or 17 percent, have been subsidized in the past and are facing rate increases. Those rate increases can range up to 18 percent for primary residences and apartment buildings. Premiums for vacation homes and businesses will increase 25 percent annually. But it appears that many policyholders in Maryland may not be aware of the impending rate increases. That includes residents of Federalsburg, where almost 80 percent of policies will be affected by the rate increases but local officials say they've not heard any feedback from residents.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Land preservation conference highlights need for affordable farmland and more farmers The No.

1 challenge to ensuring young people have the opportunity to pursue farming is getting access to land. In Maryland, where the market value of 1 acre of land is roughly \$7,000, that makes it difficult for beginning farmers. That's according to Gregory Bowen, Maryland FarmLINK administrator, who helps farmers sell or buy farmland, mentor novice farmers and find important farming news and information. Bowen was speaking on helping the next generation of farmers get access to farmland at the 14th annual Maryland Land Conservation Conference, a two-day meeting Thursday and Friday at the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown that drew more than 100 conservation organizations and land preservationists from the Chesapeake Bay region — Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. When he got involved in land preservation programs in 1970, Bowen thought that preserving farming only required preserving farmland, but that is not the case, he said. “While I was fortunate to oversee a very successful land preservation program in Calvert County, it took me a while to notice that we were not doing a good job at helping farmers succeed,” Bowen said. Farmland buyers should beware that a lot of land has terms and conditions about what the land can be used for, Bowen said, which makes the case for Realtors educated about selling farmland, as well as sources to help such as Maryland FarmLINK. Bowen said land trusts, another helpful source for new farmers, sell or lease land to farmers, particularly beginning farmers. The largest number of Maryland farmers are 55 to 64 years old, while a meager 5 percent of the Free State's farmers are 34 and younger, Bowen said, adding that while there is a dire need for new farmers, it's a lot more challenging to get beginning farmers on land than ever before.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWS

MDA Reminds Marylanders to Protect Waterways & Chesapeake Bay Follow New Lawn Fertilizer Law. Now that spring is finally here, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) reminds homeowners and lawn care professionals that responsible lawn care practices can make a big difference for the health of streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland's new lawn fertilizer law took effect October 1, 2013, and includes new requirements for both homeowners who fertilize their own lawns and lawn care professionals hired to apply fertilizer to residential, business and public properties. “Turf grass is now the largest crop in Maryland,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “As you begin working outside this spring, keep in mind that the way you care for your lawn can make a difference for the Bay,” he added. Lawn care professionals must now be licensed and certified by MDA to apply fertilizer to the lawns that they manage. This helps ensure that they understand the science behind turf management and the environmental practices they will need to follow in order to protect water resources from excess fertilizer. MDA encourages homeowners to verify that their lawn care provider is certified by visiting www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer. In addition, Maryland law prohibits most lawn fertilizer products from containing phosphorus—a key nutrient that is responsible for the Chesapeake Bay's “dead zones.” Look for the middle number on a bag of fertilizer. It should be zero (0). Specialty products containing phosphorus are still available and may be used when a soil test indicates the need for phosphorus or when a lawn is being established, repaired or patched. Maryland's lawn fertilizer law also limits the amount of nitrogen contained in lawn care products and requires part of this nitrogen to be in a slow release form.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Toxic waste entombed at Rentokil site in Henrico State police and health officials made a surprise raid in 1984 to investigate reports of hazardous waste being stored at a site in northwestern Henrico County. The investigation turned up toxic pollution in soil, water and groundwater at the Rentokil wood-preserving operation at Peyton Street and Oakview Avenue in the Laurel area.

Virginia's non-Superfund sites may pose health, environmental hazards Big Superfund toxic-waste dumps get the publicity, but reports going back 18 years suggest numerous smaller pollution sites could pose threats in Virginia. A state-hired consultant said in 1996 that about 400 abandoned waste sites created potential risks to people and the environment. That was an estimate, but the consultant's report listed 38 specific sites believed to pose the greatest risks. A General Assembly study panel looked at those numbers and reported in 1997 that Virginia should develop a comprehensive program for dealing with abandoned waste sites. All these years later, a report by the University of Richmond School of Law is raising nearly identical concerns. The January report suggested Virginia has hundreds of waste sites that need to be addressed, and it said the state has no comprehensive program for dealing with the sites. The reports raise three key questions: Does Virginia protect us from toxic waste? The UR report said Virginia does not adequately track waste sites, putting people and the environment in danger. Many of these places, such as former gas stations and dry cleaners, are too small to be listed as full-fledged Superfund sites, the report said. Superfund listing can free up millions of federal or private dollars for cleanups. The state has no program to rank toxic sites in importance and clean them, according to the UR report. Existing programs, the report said, are "highly fragmentary" and poorly funded.

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

Blog: Great white sharks in Chesapeake Bay: 'Get used to it' (April 1) A national shark institution is predicting something unusual this summer for Chesapeake Bay: An influx of great whites. Predictions based on modeling of past great white shark sightings off the coast of Virginia and recent confirmations of dolphins attacked by the renowned seafaring predators have prompted the advisory. Recent data analyzed by scientists with the Aruba-based National Association of Shark Teaching and Education (NASTE) suggests an influx of great whites into the bay as early as this summer. In tracking shark movements, the NASTE scientists concluded that sightings of great whites last summer off the coast of Virginia and the discovery last week of dolphins nearly bitten in half by the toothy predators indicate the Chesapeake Bay region is becoming more inviting for great white sharks. "Last year was a real eye-opener," said Martin Rediehs, a scientist who specializes in the study of great white sharks. "Not to sound alarmist but people should just get used to the idea of having these amazingly fierce and extraordinarily effective predators with rows of razor-sharp teeth and insatiable appetites hanging out with them, so to speak, in the bay. Get used to it." For years, Rediehs said, it's been clear as waters warm in the Hampton Roads region that great whites will be drawn to the "buffet table" of ample food supplies and lack of competition. On study after study, it's been shown that great whites have

been able to ascertain where food supplies are abundant, in large part due to the ineffectiveness of local sport fishermen, Rediehcs said. "Okay, I don't want to say the local fishermen stink or anything, but I mean there's a reason great whites are being drawn to Virginia," Rediehcs said. "It's pretty clear they won't have to worry about breakfast, lunch, or dinner being pulled out from under them."

Petersburg Progress-Index

Volunteers take part in Project Clean Stream at Appomattox River PETERSBURG - Petersburg officials and volunteers from the area and Fort Lee participated in Project Clean Stream at the Appomattox River on Saturday afternoon to collect trash for proper disposal. Volunteers worked the trail from Pocahontas Island to Ferndale Park in Dinwiddie. Project Clean Stream, an event that takes place every year nationally, enlisted the help of Fort Lee soldiers, Petersburg's Department of Public Works and Utilities and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay locally. Shannon Fisher, site captain, said about 30 volunteers participated. River cleanups such as Project Clean Stream are important to the community, because they increase awareness of pollution and "increase the sustainability in the Petersburg area," Fisher said. Steven Hicks, director of public works and utilities, was thrilled with the turnout and volunteers. "They worked hard. They came, they did what they're doing and they just keep on giving. It's just amazing what they've done, it really is," Hicks said. As simple as it may seem, it's important to pick up trash around the river, because "it's the number one contributor" to the river getting dirty, Hicks added. Although the river itself isn't very polluted, Hicks said there's a "tremendous amount of trash along the Appomattox River," including many tires. "I hope that if anything people get out of this is you need to stop littering. That's the message, and then if you do see litter, do your part and pick it up," Hicks said.

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

Across Virginia, toxic Superfund sites are still with us RICHMOND — They were the worst of the worst, the most-dangerous toxic-waste dumps in Virginia. Bearing names like Avtex, Kim-Stan and Greenwood, these poisoned plots spawned long-ago headlines and, in at least once case, killed people. Today they are Virginia's 31 Superfund sites, still with us after years of cleanup — safer but not yet tame. "By definition it poses health risks to the public" if a site sits on the Superfund list, said Noah Sachs, an environmental law expert at the University of Richmond School of Law. The nation's most hazardous waste sites go on the Superfund list, named for a pool of federal dollars created to help clean the properties. In Virginia, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has spent or obligated more than \$250 million for cleanups at Superfund sites. Many military installations harbor Superfund sites, and the Department of Defense has spent or obligated more than \$760 million. The state has kicked in more than \$8 million. A review of Virginia's Superfund sites is like a walk down bad-memory lane. The places include: The Greenwood Chemical Co. site in Albemarle County, where a huge explosion killed four workers in 1985. Avtex Fibers at Front Royal. The state shut it down in 1989, but health officials still issue warnings about the dangers of eating Shenandoah River fish contaminated with toxic chemicals called PCBs, which seeped from the fiber-making factory. Experts believe PCBs can cause cancer. The Kim-Stan landfill in Alleghany County, where medical waste, waste oil and other trash piled up an estimated 80 feet deep, and polluted garbage juice leaked out. The dump was shut down in 1990. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other regulators have overseen years of cleanup work in Virginia, but problems remain.

GREENSBORO NEWS AND RECORD (N.C.)

Scientists expect Dan River to be safe for farmers to use (Friday) N.C. State soil scientists expect to report soon that Dan River water will be safe to use by farmers in Rockingham and Caswell counties. It's almost planting season for the dozen or so farmers who raise cattle and plant corn, soybeans and tobacco on lowland fields along the bends in the river. Water, wind, cold and heat are always a worry for farmers. On Feb. 2, the farmers got another headache when the river ran gray. A stormwater pipe burst at Duke Energy's retired Dan River Steam Station, sending thousands of tons of coal ash into the river. That waste contained high levels of toxic minerals, including arsenic and selenium. If the water is toxic, that's bad news for farmers who use the river during hot months for irrigating crops and as drinking water for cattle.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREENWIRE

PENNSYLVANIA: Natural gas's share of air pollution relatively small -- report (Friday) Pennsylvania's natural gas industry was a relatively small contributor to air pollution in 2012, even though the industry built more compressor stations, a report from state regulators has found. The report released yesterday by the state's Department of Environmental Protection said that, overall, air pollution from industrial facilities dropped in 2012, in part because they were using more natural gas. The data came from 8,800 natural gas wells and 400 compressor stations that process oil and natural gas. According to the findings, the natural gas industry emitted 10 percent of nitrogen oxides, 21 percent of volatile organic compounds and 9 percent of carbon monoxide from industrial sources in Pennsylvania.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Exxon Mobil to report on risks to environment Exxon Mobil Corp. has reached an agreement with New York City's pension funds to disclose more information about the environmental risks of hydraulic fracturing. The pension funds, which control about \$1.02 billion of Exxon shares, had sought to force the oil company to report on risks surrounding disposal of fracking wastewater, air pollution, methane emissions and other concerns. Exxon said it would release the information in a report on its website in September. As part of the agreement, the New York City Comptroller's office, which manages the funds, will withdraw a shareholder proposal to force a vote on the proposal at Exxon's upcoming shareholder meeting. A similar proposal last year won support from about 30 percent of shareholders. "We understand people have concerns. This activity is somewhat new and not understood in some parts of the country," Exxon spokesman Alan Jeffers said. "People want more information, and the more they know, the better"

NEW YORK TIMES

Anadarko Pays Billions in Settling Toxins Case HOUSTON — A giant Texas oil company, Anadarko Petroleum, has agreed to pay \$5.1 billion for a vast environmental cleanup, a sum the Justice Department said was the largest it had ever won in such a case. The settlement,

announced on Thursday, is aimed at restoring thousands of sites polluted by toxins and compensating thousands of people with personal injury claims. The case stretches back almost a decade, originating with claims against Kerr-McGee, an Oklahoma energy and chemical company that is now a subsidiary of Anadarko, one of the country's most successful oil and gas producers. Anadarko had argued that it could not be held liable for pollution caused by Kerr-McGee, which had ostensibly passed the liabilities on to a spinoff company called Tronox, which later declared bankruptcy. But a bankruptcy judge said the reorganization was simply an attempt to dodge liability. In announcing the settlement, the deputy attorney general, James M. Cole, said it reflected "the Justice Department's firm commitment to preventing and combating all forms of fraud and to securing environmental justice." But oil experts said it was also a welcome development for Anadarko, removing a long distraction and possibly making the company — with interests from West Texas to West Africa and Algeria — a takeover target for a suitor looking to acquire new reserves. Anadarko's chief executive, Al Walker, issued a statement hailing the agreement, saying it "eliminates the uncertainty this dispute has created." Anadarko shares soared on news of the settlement, closing up 14.5 percent, in part because the sum was far lower than what the government originally sought. "It removes a huge cloud hanging over the stock," said Fadel Gheit, a senior oil analyst at Oppenheimer & Company. He called Anadarko "the most attractive takeover target because it has a premier position on the onshore U.S. and is one of the biggest leaseholders and operators in the Gulf of Mexico."

HUFFINGTON POST

Commentary: Memo to Congress: Protect Public Health, Not Toxic Chemicals Americans have long been unwitting subjects in an uncontrolled experiment. For decades, U.S. manufacturers -- with the federal government's blessing -- have been producing tens of thousands of untested, potentially toxic chemicals, many of which wind up in our bodies. These substances include suspected neurotoxins, carcinogens and endocrine disruptors, and thousands of other chemicals for which there is little or no information. Why? When Congress passed the landmark Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) nearly 40 years ago, the law considered chemicals already on the market to be safe. So while it required the government to review new chemicals for their toxicity, it exempted nearly 62,000 pre-existing, commercially available ones. They included such nasty substances as bisphenol A (BPA), ethyl benzene and toluene, and others that health officials still know very little about, including the relatively obscure 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM). That's the chemical that leaked into the Elk River in West Virginia earlier this year, contaminating the water supply of 300,000 area residents. Only about 200 of the chemicals that were on the market before TSCA was enacted in 1977 have been tested for safety. Since then, the number of chemicals in the marketplace has jumped to more than 80,000, and TSCA's requirements for those new chemicals have hardly been stringent. Manufacturers are supposed to supply the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with information about production volume, intended uses, and toxicity 90 days before they begin commercial-scale production. But 85 percent of the manufacturers' notifications have contained no health data, according to the EPA's own figures.